

USS LEXINGTON (CVS-16) COMMAND HISTORY FOR 1966

I. CHRONOLOGY OF OUTSTANDING EVENTS

23 March 1966	Most carrier landings in a 24-hour period.
21-25 March 1966	Most carrier landings in a five-day period.
31 March 1966	Most carrier landings in one daylight period.
21-31 March 1966	Most carrier landing in a ten-day period.
6 May 1966	152,000th arrested carrier landing. Most carrier arrested landings in the Fleet.
1 July 1966	LTDR R. W. HEPWORTH achieves quadruple centurion.
19 August 1966	Change of Command.
7 September 1966	First student naval aviator carrier qualifies in the T-2B "Duckeye."
29 September 1966	1000R R. W. HEPWORTH achieves Quintuplicate centurion.

II. NARRATIVE

A. Command Organization. LEXINGTON commanding officers:

Captain Gordon A. SWIDER 9 June 1965 to 19 August 1966

Captain Jack C. HEISMAN 19 August 1966 to Present

LEXINGTON is homeported at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, and is the training carrier for basic, advanced, and Fleet carrier qualifications. LEXINGTON is under the operational control

of the Chief of Naval Air Basic Training when in the Pensacola area and under the operational control of the Chief of Naval Air Advanced Training when in the Corpus Christi, Texas area.

B. Operations. LEXINGTON's pattern of operations in 1966 was maintained on a monthly cycle--three weeks at sea and one week in port. Each month one week was spent in the Pensacola area for Naval Air Basic Training carrier qualifications (T-28 and T-2A/B aircraft), a second week in the Pensacola area for fleet carrier qualifications (A-6, A-4, E-1B, S-2E, C-1A, and EA-1F aircraft), and one week in the Corpus Christi area for Naval Air Advanced Training carrier qualifications (FS-2A and TF-9J aircraft). During the fourth week each month LEXINGTON remains in port for major upkeep repair on engineering, catapult and arresting gear equipments.

C. Special Topics. As the Fleet's only regular carrier qualification aircraft carrier, LEXINGTON has achieved some notable firsts in carrier arrested landing operations.

On 23 March 1966, LEXINGTON accomplished a record number of aircraft recoveries in one day, completing 604 arrested landings plus 92 touch-and-go landings. On 31 March 1966, LEXINGTON's recovery record was in a single daylight period: 533 daylight arrested landings plus 186 touch-and-go landings. LEXINGTON, during the same March period (supra), set records for five- and ten-day operating periods. For the five-day period 21-25 March, LEXINGTON completed 1756 arrested landings plus 266 touch-and-go landings; and for the ten-day period 21-31 March, 3,016 arrested landings plus 451 touch-and-go landings.

On 1 July, LCDR R. W. HEPWORTH, LEXINGTON's Assistance CIC Officer and Senior COB Pilot, qualified as a Quadruple Centurion aboard the LEXINGTON, and on 29 September he qualified as the ship's first Quintuple Centurion by completing his 500th arrested landing aboard the ship.

On 7 September, the North American-built T-2B "Buckeye" was used for the first time in carrier qualifying student naval aviators. The first twin jet engine T-2B was landed aboard LEXINGTON by ENS James Miller, Jr., of Training Squadron FOUR (VT-4) based at NAS Pensacola, Florida.

III. DOCUMENTARY ANNEXES

A copy of the roster of officers for the end of 1966 and the public affairs booklet, "USS LEXINGTON CVS-16," are attached.